

GENERAL NOTES.

Occurrence of the Wood Ibis (*Tantalus loculator*) in Bristol County, Massachusetts.—Mr. J. W. Critchley, of Providence, Rhode Island, writes me that “late in the afternoon of July 17, 1896, a woman came into the store with a Wood Ibis which her husband had shot that morning at a small mud pond in Seekonk, Massachusetts. It is a young bird but the primaries, secondaries and tail have the black and greenish brown of the adult. The rest of the wings with the back are white. The head is bald but the neck is covered with dark, downy feathers.”

This specimen proved, on dissection, to be a male. Mr. Critchley has mounted it and I have just purchased it of him for my New England collection.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Wilson's Snipe in Nova Scotia in Winter.—During the months of January and February, 1896, I frequently flushed a pair of Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*) from a small fresh-water swamp near this town, known as Willow Hollow. This swamp is watered by many springs, situated in a well sheltered place, and remains open all winter.

Is not this pretty far north for these birds to winter? The winter was severe with much snow.—HAROLD F. TUFTS, *Wolfville, Nova Scotia.*

The Wild Pigeon at Englewood, N. J.—Mr. C. Irving Wood permits me to record his capture of a Wild Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*) at Englewood, N. J., June 23, 1896. The bird was alone. It has been mounted by Mr. J. Ullrich, a local taxidermist, in whose possession I saw it. It is a young female molting from the first into mature plumage.—FRANK M. CHAPMAN, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

Recent Record of the Passenger Pigeon in Southern Wisconsin.—On September 8, 1896, I was fortunate enough to be presented with a beautiful immature male Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*) which was killed that afternoon by a local hunter. It was a single bird and was shot from a dead tree near Delavan Lake; the crop was well filled with acorns and grasshoppers. This is the first record of the capture of the Wild Pigeon here in many years, and I consider myself extremely lucky in obtaining so fine a specimen.—N. HOLLISTER, *Delavan, Wis.*

The Turkey Vulture in the Catskills.—Dr. H. H. Rusby informs me that on September 1, 1896, he saw a Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) at Ulsterville, Ulster County, N. Y. The bird at one time was sailing

about within twenty yards of a number of observers, some of whom were familiar with the species in the South.—FRANK M. CHAPMAN, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City*.

Buteo borealis harlani in Minnesota.—On April 12, 1893, I secured a beautiful specimen of this Hawk on the prairies of Lac Qui Parle County, near Madison, this State. Mr. Robert Ridgway has examined it and pronounced it not quite adult. He considers this the most northern capture of this species. The following are the data: No. 1500. Collection Albert Lano. Length, 22.50; extent, 54.00; wing, 21.00; tail, 10.00 inches. Weight, 2 lbs. 12 1-2 oz. Ovaries size of no. 4 shot. Stomach empty.—ALBERT LANO, *Aitkin, Minn.*

A Note on Buteo borealis lucasani Ridgway.—This form is usually cited as a 'var.,' and occurs as such in both the old and new A. O. U. Check-Lists, where it is based on "*Buteo borealis* var. *lucasani* Ridgw. in Coues's Key, 1872. 216." The only reference to this bird at the place cited is: "An unpublished variety from Cape St. Lucas is *B. lucasani* Ridgway, Mss." It will be noticed, first, that Dr. Coues names the form as a species; second, that the name is a manuscript one, hence under the new practice should be credited to Coues if otherwise correct; third, there is no description, unless the words "Cape St. Lucas" be considered such, which would hardly be justified under either of the three bases given in Canon XLIII of the Code. The correct citation appears to be, Ridgw. in Hist. N. Am. B. III, 1874, 258, 285.—WILLIAM PALMER, *Washington, D. C.*

Feeding-habits of Purple Finches.—The following interesting observations on the manner in which Purple Finches (*Carpodacus purpureus*) feed their young are communicated by Mrs. A. C. Davenport, of Brattleboro, Vt. She writes: "During the time the young were in the nest the parents came continually to my window for hemp seed, eating rapidly for ten minutes at a time. They then usually sipped a little water, flew away, and returned in a few moments.

"As soon as the young left the nest, they were brought to my window, and until they could care for themselves, or until a new brood was raised, were still fed by the food being ejected from the crops of the parent birds.

"I never saw any live food given them, though I watched closely, but of course I cannot say decidedly of this. Neither did I see the old birds 'budding' any during this period."—FRANK M. CHAPMAN, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City*.

First Occurrence of the Blue Grosbeak in New Hampshire.—On May 26, 1894, an adult male Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*), in full plumage, was seen near the house for about twenty minutes; I succeeded in getting within ten feet of the bird, so that I could see all the markings